Verification of the Railway Claims

609. CHAUDHARY CHUNNI LAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that verification of claims is got done by the Office Clerk of Northern Railway unlike other Railways; and

(b) whether it also a fact that verification of the claims is the duty of the Claims Inspector as it was done earlier; if so, why the change has been done in this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes Sir, it is the duty of Claims Inspectors to verify the claims.

Recruitment of Sports Persons in Railways

610. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway employees who brought laurel in the recent Asian Games; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to recruit more sports persons in the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) 27.

(b) New Sports recruitment policy has been framed to give thrust to transparency in the field of recruitment of sportspersons on the Indian Railways, which envisages recruitment of 70% vacancies in Group 'C' and 100% vacancies in Group 'D' through open advertisements and the remaining 30% vacancies in Group 'C' through talent scouting.

Computer Reservation Centres

611. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Rail computer reservation Centre is working now at Imphal in Manipur;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken-up by Government to resume its facilities to the people; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to authorise it to the Travel Agency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The Computerised reservation office at Imphal is manned by the staff of Manipur State Road Transport Corporation. This reservation office at Imphal is inoperative since 26.11.1998 due to the ongoing strike in the Manipur State Road Transport Corporation.

(b) Manipur Government has been requested to take early action in the matter.

(c) At present, there is no such proposal under consideration.

Accidents on the Bombay Suburban Rail Lines

612. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents on the Bombay suburban rail lines during the last two years, ending 31st December, 1998;

(b) the details of losses including human lives and other kinds substained in these accidents;